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TRANSMITTAL FORM (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)	Application Number	09/757,138	
	Filing Date	January 9, 2001	
	First Named Inventor	Chad C. Smutney	
	Group Art Unit	3763	
	Examiner Name	R. Ghafoorian	
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	7	Attorney Docket Number	P-1656

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment / Reply <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	<input type="checkbox"/> Assignment Papers (for an Application) <input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Group <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below): Copy of Claims Showing Amendments Return Receipt Postcard
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Firm or Individual name	Frederick A. Spaeth
Signature	<i>Frederick A. Spaeth</i>
Date	October 24, 2002

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING			
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 on this date: 10/24/2002			
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: Chad C. Smutney et al : GROUP ART UNIT: 3763
SERIAL NO: 09/757,138 :
FILING DATE: January 9, 2001 : EXAMINER: R. Ghafoorian
TITLE: BLUNTABLE NEEDLE ASSEMBLY WITH :
OPEN-ENDED BLUNTING PROBE : ATTY DKT: P-1656

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Commissioner for Patents October 23, 2002
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This paper is responsive to the office action mailed October 3, 2002 in the captioned application.

AMENDMENTS

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In the Claims

Please cancel claims 2, 4 and 12.

Amend claims 1, 5-7 and 11 as follows. Enclosed herewith, in a separate paper, is a version of each amended claim marked up to show the changes made by the proposed amendments.

1. (once amended) A blunttable needle assembly comprising:
- a needle component comprising a housing and a needle cannula mounted in the housing, the needle cannula having a sharp tip, wherein the housing defines a fluid chamber and an access port for fluid flow therethrough; and
 - a blunting component comprising a shuttle member and a tubular, non-perforated blunting probe mounted on the shuttle member, the blunting probe having a blunt tip and a rearward open end;
- wherein the blunting probe is disposed within the needle cannula and wherein the needle component and the blunting component are configured for movement from a sharpened configuration to locking engagement in a blunted configuration; and

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